Devoted to the Mrindangam

Accomplished mridangam maestro TS Nandakumar teaches young aspirants the intricacies of Indian classical music.

VIJAY SHANKAR reports

With a musical lineage that can be traced to the legendary Nadaswaram duo, Ambalappuzha Brothers, TS Nandakumar developed a passion for music when he was barely seven years old. With arduous training under the able tutelage of reputed mridangam maestro Kaithavana Madhava Das, Nandkumar soon acquired proficiency as 'Laya Vidwan'. Since then, he has won accolades for his performances from prestigious institutions like the Kerala Sangeet Natak Academy.

For more than two decades now Nandakumar has been promoting Indian carnatic music both as a teacher and a performer. He has had the privilege of performing for various prestigious festivals all over the country, besides [illegible] performances for All [illegible] Doordarshan. [illegible]ing artist, he has the ability to sustain the interest of the audience through intelligent rhythmic forays. He is much sought after as a teacher and he guides students in the intricacies of mridangam, the south Indian percussion instrument. He is the leading light of the percussive ensemble known as the 'Vadya Laya Vrinda'. Last year, Nandakumar established TSN's Percussive Arts Centre. He states, "Though there are several institutions for imparting training in vocal and instrumental music and dance, there is no institution which imparts exclusive and specialised training in 'Avanaddha Vadyas' i.e. percussion instruments. Also the number of artistes associated with the 'Avanadha Vadyas' is dwindling mainly because of lack of proper training facilities. With a view to bridge this gap, TSN's Percussive Arts Centre has been set up in the cosmopolitan city of Mumbai and it has emerged as the forerunner in the promotion of fine arts. The institution plans to explore rhythm and form ensembles of percussive artists".

Musicologist Dr Sulochana Rajendran says "There is one more dimension to this dynamic teacher which only those who have closely observed his methodology could perceive.

There is an urge in him to reach the rhythm to the kids, whatever their aptitude. He as an easy methodology, a play of pace and 'Aksharakalas' which he imparts in a way that a child with certain calculative acumen can grasp a complex variation. It is little wonder then that students flock to him."

Rune Jog

[illegible] was an offering, from the [illegible] the trend was more of the 'Khyal', an Urdu word, meaning [illegible] 'Thumri' has come from Lucknow

TAROT HOROSCOPE

for August 4 - August 11, [illegible]

SHIRLEY BOSE

Aries March 21 - April 20
A gradual balancing of your spiritual [illegible] cial life begins because of which you issues dating back to decades and times. It is as though a curtain cove suddenly been drawn back and [illegible] Older Arians need to have [illegible]

Taurus April 21 - May 20
Only when the time is right [illegible] 'karmas' will your life begin to move want. This feeling of restriction is mar less, and if you are honest with your your own attitude has a lot to do with the jobs in hand, advises the Page of ney out of the city is indicated.

Gemini May 21 - June 21
A quick one-day holiday or a twenty relax, sleep and rejuvenate would act form better at work. You would have routine by now, reveals the Page of friends at the office too. It is always tain an emotional distance with colle

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Happiness tinged with uncertain mar your 'now', says the Judgeme family is not too happy with the faithfully stand by you, not givi there for you. An important point ing a decision is, "Will my decisio for me?"

Leo July 24 - Aug 23
People and friends flock around you messages and also with the intention out of you. The Tower card advises in check and not allow insincere com The reading indicates angry outbur your temper under control.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
An important contract seems just w vanishes. A celebration and good n the Three of Rods card. Writers ar can expect recognition, success and hard work .

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22
You realise you are bored with you and beliefs and would like to make you have been dreaming for at lea where the fabled Libran indecision t to imagine the worst scenario and answerable to society frightens you imperative to stand by a friend who Your spouse would leave for a work

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22
The Page of Rods card reveals you sighted and a source of strength t feel need to be focussed and goal- of lecturing, you have decided to se It may sound contradictory, but confi assertive actions which result in a the negative influences this week. T within India.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22
Avoid trying to prove a point with life - specially a long-time friend just give the benefit of the doubt.